

Urban Congestion Imperils Life of Race

THE NEGRO FACES DIRE PROBLEM IN CROWDED CITIES

Survey Reveals Alarming Conditions
as Result of Drift of Negroes
from Country to Populous
Cities

HIGH RENTS, LOW STANDARDS

Abnormally Advanced Death Rate
from Tuberculosis, Pneumonia
and Infants' Diseases Result
of Housing Conditions

Atlanta, Ga.—From 1900 to 1925 there was a shift of 2,100,000 Negroes from the country to the cities, more than doubling the urban Negro population, according to an exhaustive study of Negro life and conditions just completed by the Institute of Social and Religious Research. Made under the direction of Dr. T. J. Woof-ter, jr., of the University of North Carolina, this study covers 16 typical American cities, north and south, and is the first scientific investigation of Negro conditions ever made on anything like a national scale. The report of the investigation has just been issued in a book entitled "Negro Problems in Cities," which treats of the cityward drift of Negro population and the resulting problems of friction, congestion, segregation, exploitation, schools, recreation and delinquency.

Congestion in Cities

Contrary to the general impression, the report reveals that a little more than half the 2,100,000 Negro migrants stopped in southern cities, though the percentage of gain was very much heavier north than south. In consequence of this rapid shift, overcrowding and congestion in Negro districts were found to be very general. In New York City, for example, Negro population showed a density of 335 per acre, as against 20 in Winston-Salem. In 11 tenement houses in Philadelphia 175 families were found living in 354 rooms.

High Death Rate

Along with this crowding has gone an abnormally high death rate, particularly from tuberculosis, pneumonia and the diseases of infants. Rents, it was found, were very much higher north than south, with a weekly average of \$7.18 per dwelling in the north as against \$3.74 in the south. Lynchburg showed the minimum of 60 cents a room per week, and Gary the maximum of \$1.78. In the case of 747 families living in Harlem, New York, it was found that rents took more than 23 per cent of the total family income.

Recreation Facilities Few

The investigators discovered a general lack of public recreation facilities in Negro neighborhoods and in consequence, a high rate of juvenile delinquency. The conditions of commercialized recreation, such as pool rooms and dance halls, were found to be deplorable.

School Provisions Poor

"School funds are not adequate to meet the needs, either north or south," says the report. "Where there are separate Negro schools they are usually a secondary consideration, with fewer seats in proportion than the white schools, more pupils per teacher, more double sessions, poorer salaries, fewer and smaller playgrounds, less adequate provisions for the health and comfort of pupils and few, if any, 'extras,' such as libraries, gymnasiums, etc."

Home Ownership Grows

One of the encouraging signs revealed by the survey is the tendency among Negroes toward home ownership. In every city studied except New Orleans the number of Negro home owners had increased materially, and in northern cities quite rapidly. In most cases the slum sections have remained relatively constant in population, while the population of the home owning sections have been increasing.

Mr. William Parks of Denver, Colo., was the week-end guest of Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Mahammit, 2216 No. Twenty-fifth street.

BOY SCOUT EXECUTIVE TO VISIT OMAHA FRIDAY

Impressive Investiture Service for Troop No. 7 Will Be Held at Central Y.W.C.A. in Connection with His Visit

Mr. Stanley A. Harris of St. Louis, Mo., national director of interracial activities of the Boy Scouts of America will be an Omaha visitor next week. He visits the city for the purpose of quickening interest in the Boy Scout movement, particularly among colored people. He will hold conferences while here and at 8 o'clock sharp Friday night, March 30, at the Young Women's Christian association auditorium, Seventeenth and Howard streets, there will be a public meeting at which Mr. Harris will be the speaker and the impressive investiture service for Troop No. 7 will be conducted by Boy Scout Troop No. 9 from All Saints' church and scout officials, to which the public is invited.

Admission will be by ticket which can be secured free from Dr. Craig Morris, and officials of sponsoring troops, T. P. Mahammit, the Rev. Messrs. C. H. Trusty, John H. Grant, J. W. Garner, and J. P. Jackson; Mrs. M. L. Rhone, Dr. D. W. Gooden and Paul Holliday.

FOUR COLORED GRADUATES FROM TECHNICAL HIGH

Among the 94 graduates of the winter quarter class of Technical High school who received their diplomas Tuesday morning were four colored students, three girls and one boy. They were Misses Anna Jean Dorsey, Hattie Naomi Maxwell and Constance Belle Singleton and Herbert Lewis. The class was an unusual one inasmuch as the boys outnumbered the girls two to one, there being 67 boys to 27 girls, the ratio being ordinarily the other way.

Jean Dorsey, who is talented in art, according to the testimony of Miss McCague, head of the art department, designed the cover for "The Quadrant," the graduate publication. She plans to enter an art school. Constance Singleton is skilled with the needle and hopes to enter an eastern school where she will take designing and dressmaking. The Monitor was unable to learn the plans of Hattie Maxwell or Herbert Lewis, but desires to congratulate all and to wish them success.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF SPANISH WAR VETERANS

The Woman's Auxiliary, Captain Allen Allensworth camp No. 25, Spanish American War Veterans, met Wednesday evening and held a very interesting meeting. Past Commander George Douglas of Capt. Allensworth camp read several important articles he received from national headquarters. All members who have not paid their dues for 1928 are delinquent February 1st. Don't be one of those to receive a notice by mail. Your dues in the Woman's Auxiliary must be paid in order to remain in good standing. Next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 28 at 8 p. m. at St. Benedict's community home. Refreshments will be served. All members and also all women whose husbands served in the Spanish American war are invited to attend.

UNITY CLASS Y. W. C. A.

On Good Friday, April 6th, the Unity class will hold a continuous meeting from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. at the home of Attorney A. P. Scruggs, 2310 North Twenty-second street. We hope that every Unity reader in Omaha will attend this meeting some time during the day. Come if you cannot stay but a short while. As we are sure you will be greatly helped. We hope that everyone that can will attend the meeting at the "Y" Sunday, March 25th, from 6 to 7:30 p. m. Subject of the lesson, Power of Thought. We will be dismissed in plenty of time for those who care to go to church. Full line of Unity books and Easter cards on sale. We will also take orders for any books that you care to order by the year.

EDITORIAL

AN EDITORIAL WHICH NAILS THE LIE THAT THE MONITOR FOUGHT SINGLETON IN LAST CAMPAIGN

Forasmuch as some are falsely charging that The Monitor opposed the election of Dr. John A. Singleton two years ago and "urged Negro voters to vote for his white opponent," we are republishing in full our editorial of Friday, July 30, 1926, in order that our readers may know for themselves and not from hearsay just what we did say at that time and just what position we took. It will be seen that we carefully analyzed the conditions as they were, presented our readers with cold facts and not guesses, warned against over-confidence or under-estimating the strength of Singleton's opponent, frankly admitted that our candidate had his minor faults, which were outweighed by his qualifications, and urged our people to "lay aside petty personal likes and dislikes" and get unitedly behind him, because we had a fighting chance and only a fighting chance to win. Fortunately our people took our advice then and we won.

But here is the editorial. Read it carefully, tell us frankly whether we gave good advice or bad, whether we supported our race candidates or opposed them:

"We have a fighting chance to nominate at the August primary and to elect in November a member of our race to the state legislature; but let us bear in mind that it is only a fighting chance and by no means a certainty. We gain nothing by deceiving ourselves or others. We are too easily deceived and make claims of political strength which an examination of hard, cold facts does not justify. When we cease to rely upon our imagination and deal with facts we will get somewhere. While we talk others figure. Let us talk less and figure more.

Facts and figures tell us that we have a fighting chance, and only a slim fighting chance to send one of our group to the legislature. That chance, as we see it, is in the Ninth District—which includes 12 precincts of the Second Ward, the boundaries of which ward are Lothrop-Bristol street on the north; the Missouri river on the east, the north side of Charles street on the south and the east side of Thirtieth street on the west.

"But please bear in mind that the Ninth Legislative District does not include all of the Second Ward. By a skillful gerrymander the Fourth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth precincts, which embrace the territory between Clark and Charles from Eighth to Thirtieth, and between Burdette and Charles from Twenty-fourth to Thirtieth are excluded. You never thought of that, did you? Now Precincts 14 and 15 are almost solidly colored, and Precinct 4 very largely so. These heavy colored precincts have been detached from the Ninth District and attached to the Tenth District. This clever trick or maneuver has largely reduced our vote in the Ninth District. Had these three precincts been included you can see what an advantage this would have been to our people. It would have made us the dominant political factor in the district. Our registered voting strength in the district is only about 1,900, while in the ward it is 1,690. The unregistered voters will largely increase this. Our registered vote in the Tenth District is about the same. Weigh well these facts. Not guesses, but carefully collected facts.

"These facts show that in both districts if we could poll even our full present registered voting strength, centered on one candidate, and enlist the support of a few hundred white voters, which can be done for a strong candidate, we could elect a representative in either one of these districts, perhaps in both; but that is doubtful. In one certainly. If we could get all our people to register and vote there would be no question about it. In other words, in neither one of these districts, have we enough colored votes to nominate or elect one of our own. This can only be done by combination; and since we have enough votes to defeat any republican candidate in either district, such combination can be made." These, then, are the plain facts: With our race vote centered upon one candidate, it is possible to secure enough support from white voters to nominate and elect one of our number in either of these two legislative districts, but it must be a united and concentrated vote. It cannot be done by scattering our fire.

"Viewing these facts, we believe our best fighting chance to nominate a candidate at this time is in the Ninth District, where only one candidate has filed in the person of Dr. John Andrew Singleton. He is a young man, 31 years of age, born and reared in Omaha, a member of a respected pioneer family, and of good education, being a graduate of Central High school and Howard university. He is married, has three children and is a home owner and taxpayer. Like the rest of us, he has his faults, of course. He has a good opinion of himself, which is not the worst of failings, and has a good deal of self-conceit—like the most of us have when we are young, but which is knocked out of us as we grow older. He is a church member and also a member of the American Legion and of several fraternities. These facts are all in his favor.

"Laying aside petty, personal likes and dislikes, which we must learn to do, if we ever expect to come into our own politically or otherwise, there is no reason why we cannot get unitedly behind Singleton, not because he is Singleton, but because we ought to have a representative in the House and regain the political prestige we once had in this state when our numbers were one-sixth less than they are now, and he is the available candidate. Getting unitedly behind him we have a fighting chance of nominating him and so demonstrating our ability to put over some one program and by so doing win the respect of those who, because of our divisions, underrate our ability to do and largely regard us as children, pawns or playthings. This is going to be no easy job, for Singleton's rival for the nomination, Walter R. Johnson, who represented the district in the last session, is an excellent young man, deservedly popular in the District.

"We hope to see Singleton win, because we believe we have got to continue fighting until we again have a representative in the House, and the Ninth District seems to us, at this time, to offer the best opportunity. If we had only one candidate in the Tenth District, where, unfortunately, we have two—in the persons of Mrs. Jabourness Alice Stewart, a most capable woman, who, if she can be elected, will be an excellent representative; and F. L. Barnett, the chances for winning would be as

BRINGS WHITE AND NEGRO WOMEN TOGETHER ON WEST COAST

Delilah L. Beasley Uses Columns of Oakland Tribune

New York, N. Y.—How white and colored clubwomen in California have been brought to co-operate, is told by Miss Delilah L. Beasley in a letter to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Miss Beasley states that five years ago she induced the white papers to present in a fair way news of a small riot. And then she called upon the editor of the Oakland Tribune, a white daily, to ask him to let her present news of her race. Having written a history of the Negro in California Miss Beasley felt she knew something of her people there.

She was given, and still writes and edits, a Sunday column entitled "Activities Among Negroes," in the Oakland Tribune, which was read by white clubwomen and brought an invitation from them to colored women to join in their programs. As a consequence 25 colored women were invited as delegates to the Institute of International Relations held in Berkeley from March 6 to 9.

MRS. CHARLES SOUTH DIES SUDDENLY

Mrs. Samantha I. South, of 2416 Blondo street, widow of the late Charles South, who died May 16, 1923, expired suddenly Sunday morning at 1 o'clock at the home of Mrs. McTassell, 2802 North Twenty-fifth street, a close personal friend with whom she was spending the evening, when she complained of feeling ill. Mrs. South had been a resident of Omaha for 38 years, coming to the city from St. Louis when a girl 12 years old. She is survived by her mother, Mrs. Kittie A. Johnson, and one son, Orlo U., a clerk in the office of Otto J. Bauman, county treasurer. The funeral was held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from Myers' funeral home, Father John Albert Williams, rector of St. Philip's Episcopal church, officiating. Interment was in Forest Lawn.

URBAN LEAGUE OFFICIAL HERE FOR SEVERAL DAYS

Mr. T. Arnold Hill of New York, director of the industrial relations department of the National Urban league, arrived in the city Monday morning to spend two weeks here in the interest of the Omaha branch, which it is planned to have in operation on or about April 1, although the secretary will not be able to be on the ground until at least a month later. Some preliminary work will have to be done before the secretary's arrival and a good deal of this will be done by Mr. Hill during his stay here. The headquarters of the Omaha branch of the Urban league will be temporarily located at the Colored Free Employment bureau at Twenty-fourth and Patrick avenue.

WALTER WHITE ASKED TO WRITE ON LYNCHING FOR FRENCH MAGAZINE

New York, N. Y.—Walter White, assistant secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, now on a year's leave for creative writing under a Guggenheim fellowship in France, has been asked by the publisher of The Journal de la Semaine, a weekly magazine published in Paris, to write a series of five articles completely setting forth the nature and evils of lynching in America.

good, if not better than in the Ninth. But this division, as we see it, radically weakens our chances to win in the Tenth.

"The Monitor is anxious to have our people see the situation exactly as it is and not be deceived or deluded by false hopes. We ought to have about 4,000 voters registered and voting in the Ninth and Tenth Legislative Districts—2,000 in each district. We have only 2,000 now registered in both, which means about 1,000 in each district. It is upon this basis that we have to figure our chances for nominating and electing a representative to the state legislature. Knowing the facts, let us act wisely and intelligently.

"(Since this was written Mrs. Stewart has died, which alters the situation in the Tenth District.)"

THOUSAND GUESTS ATTEND DINNER FOR OSWALD VILLARD

Glowing Tribute Paid Editor of The Nation by James Weldon Johnson for Services Rendered Negro Race

CHAMPIONS UNPOPULAR CAUSE

New York City—Upwards of 1,000 persons attended the dinner given recently in honor of Oswald Garrison Villard at the Hotel Pennsylvania, in recognition of his public service. Roger Baldwin of the American Civil Liberties union was chairman, and Rev. John Haynes Holmes, toastmaster at the dinner. The speakers were Zona Gale, the novelist; Mrs. Florence Kelley, secretary of the National Consumers league and a member of the board of directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Heywood Brown, Freda Kirshway, one of The Nation's editors, and James Weldon Johnson. Mr. Villard himself spoke in acknowledgement of the public tribute.

In his address Mr. Johnson spoke specially of the services Mr. Villard has rendered to the cause of the Negro in America, in particular of the meeting called by him in 1909 as a result of which the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was born. Mr. Johnson said in part:

"In the summer of 1908 there occurred in Springfield, Ill., the old home of Abraham Lincoln a race riot in which Negroes were beaten to death in the streets and even at the base of the monument of the great emancipator. A few brave souls in New York City met together and talked over the situation. They were Miss Mary White Ovington, William English Walling and Dr. Henry Moskowitz. They felt that something ought to be done to save the work of the Abolitionists, of Abraham Lincoln and those who had died for a great cause. In their extremity they turned to Oswald Garrison Villard and it was he who drafted and issued the Lincoln Birthday Call, on February 12, 1909, addressed to the conscience, the humanity and the honor of the nation. The call was signed by 53 outstanding liberals and was answered by a great mass meeting held in historic Cooper Union, the meeting at which the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was born."

Mr. Johnson referred to Mr. Villard's courage, saying: "No just cause has been so unpopular that Mr. Villard has been afraid to strike a blow in its behalf. I say this as a representative of the least popular cause in America."

POLICEMAN IS DEAD

Phil Scott, a member of the police force, died at his home, 2511 Charles street, Tuesday afternoon, after a two weeks' illness with pneumonia.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD LITERARY REVIEW

The Neighborhood Literary Review held its monthly meeting on February 28 at the residence of Mrs. L. T. Boggus. The club at this time is reviewing the works of Thomas Hardy and many interesting discussions and ideas are brought out.

A tempting luncheon was served by the hostess and the club adjourned to hold its next meeting March 27 with Miss Jennie Robinson, 3717 Parker street as hostess.